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JASON™ VS LEATHERFACE™

Part 1 of 3
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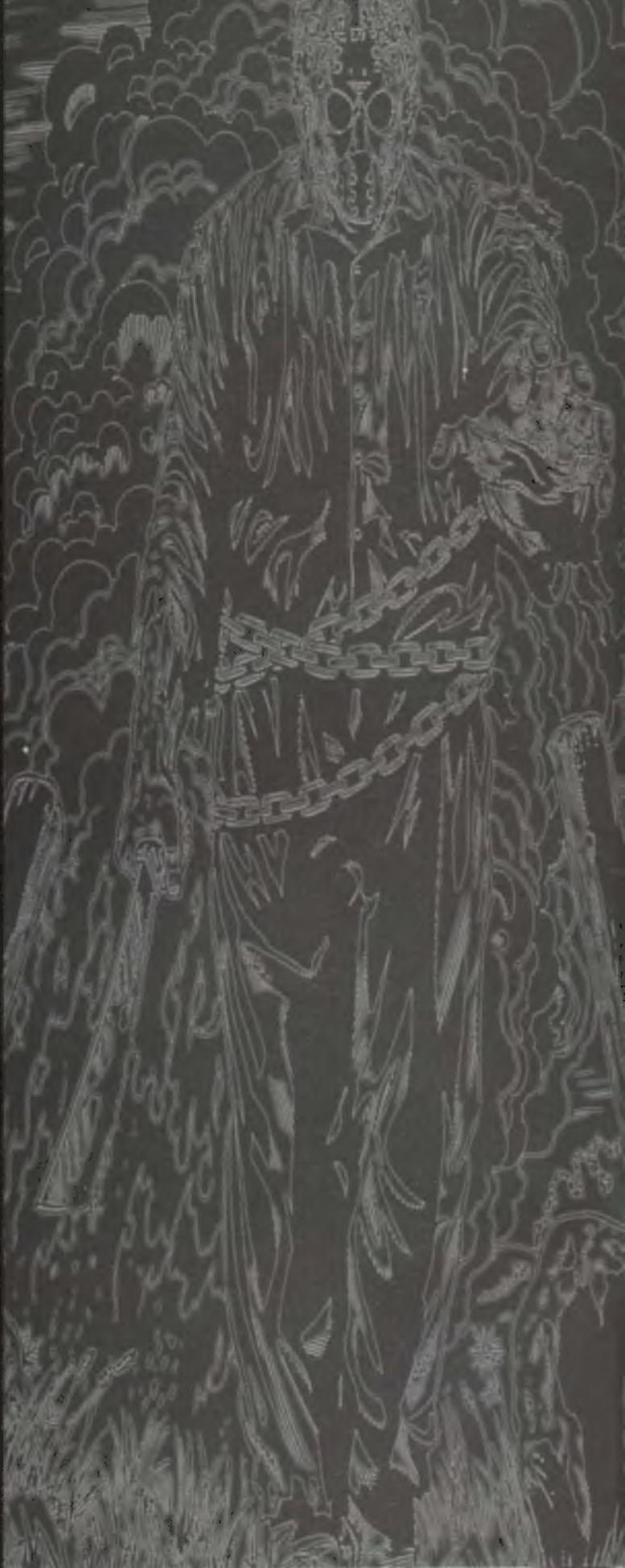
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ONCE, NOT SO LONG AGO,
CRYSTAL LAKE WAS A PLACE
WHERE PEOPLE CAME TO
ENJOY SUMMER'S IDYL, TO
SEE NATURE'S BEAUTY, AND...
MAYBE...TO FALL IN LOVE...



BUT THAT WAS
BEFORE JASON.



NOW JASON'S EVIL... HIS LIN-
DYING HATRED OF THOSE WHO
LIVE AND LOVE... HANGS OVER
THE LAKE AND THE SURROUND-
ING COUNTRYSIDE. THE
LAUGHTER OF CAMPERS
ENJOYING SUMMER'S
PLEASURES IS GONE
FOREVER...



...TO BE REPLACED
BY THINGS MORE IN
KEEPING WITH ITS
TAINTED HERITAGE...

LINHART
AMALGAMATED

TRAPPED.

THEY'RE OUT THERE...
HE CAN FEEL THEM...

HE HAS BEEN TRAPPED HERE
FOR... HOW LONG? WEEKS?
MONTHS? DECADES? HE
HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING.
NOR DOES HE CARE. TIME
MEANS NOTHING TO HIM.
ALL THAT MATTERS IS
VENGEANCE.

AND HE KNOWS THIS WOULD
STILL BE TRUE EVEN IF HE
HAD NOT DROWNED IN
THIS VERY LAKE TWENTY
YEARS BEFORE.

THEY MUST BE PUNISHED. ALL
OF THEM. ALL OF THOSE WHO
DARE TO LIVE AND LOVE AND
DARE TO BE HAPPY WHEN HE
CAN NEVER KNOW THESE
THINGS.

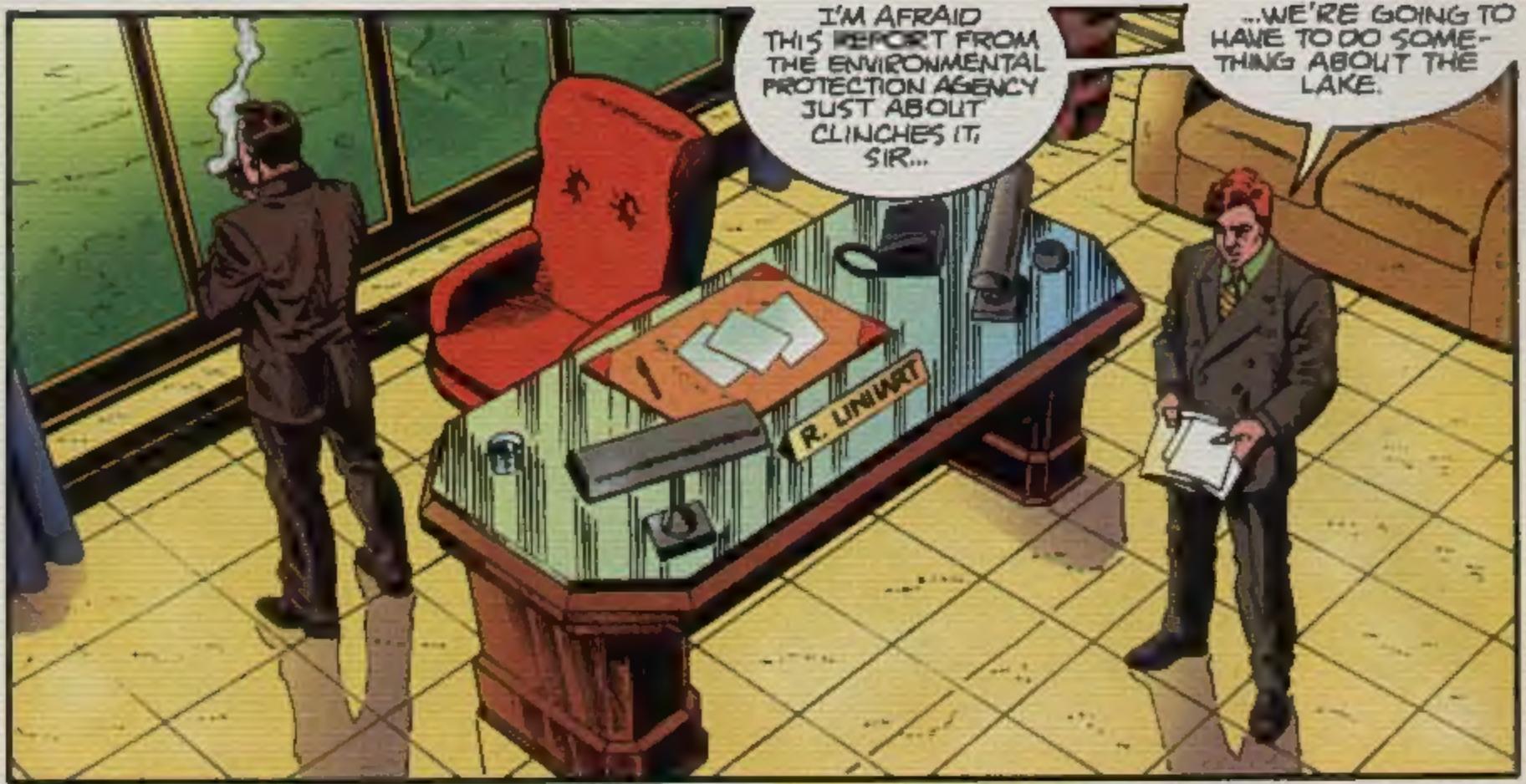
HE MUST BE PATIENT.
HE HAS HAD TO
WAIT BEFORE TIME
IS MEANINGLESS TO
ONE SUCH AS HE.

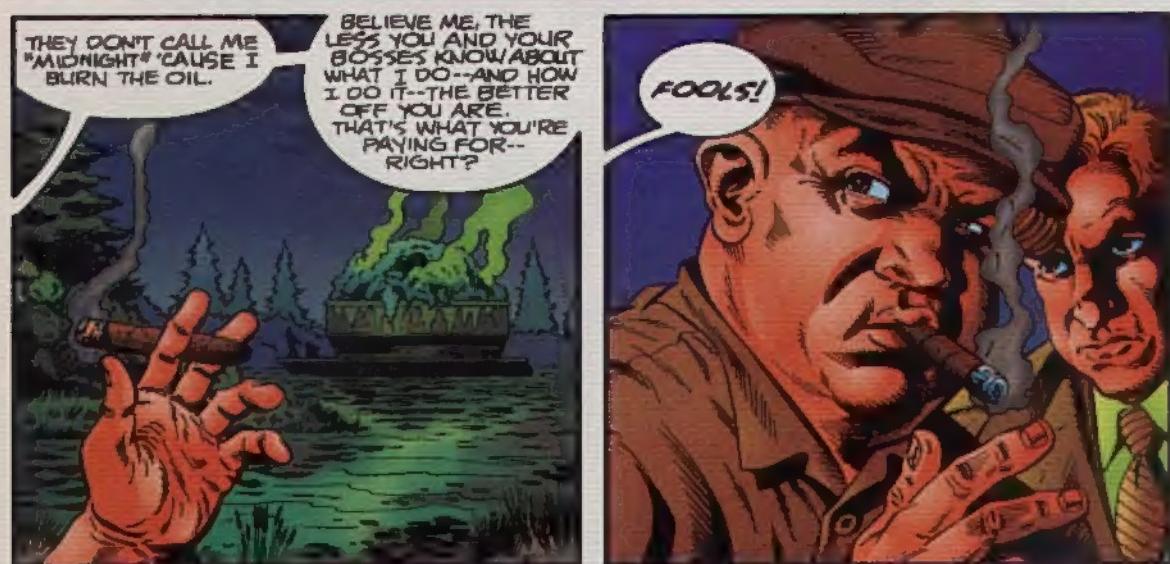
AND AFTER
ALL....

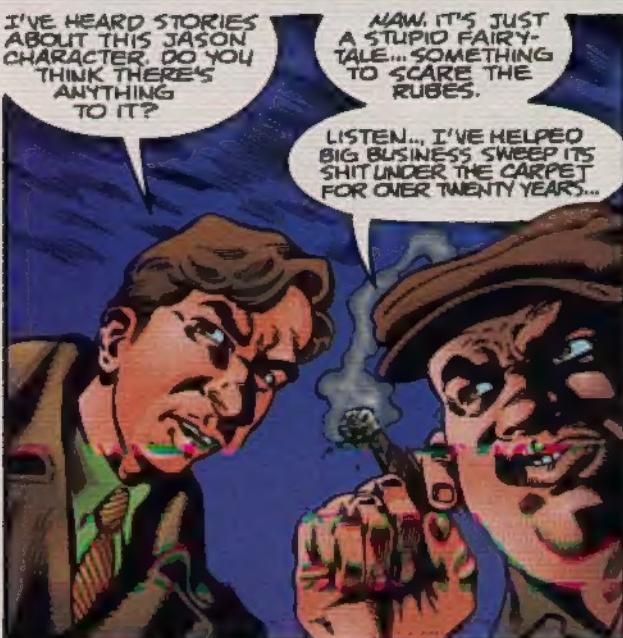
HE HAS HIS HATE
TO KEEP HIM WARM.

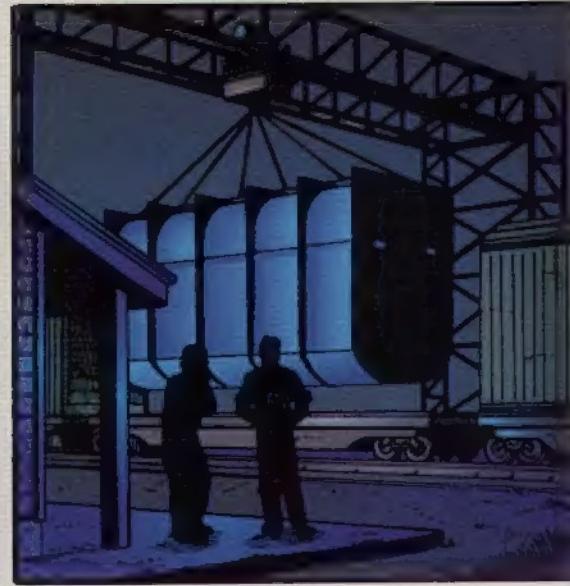
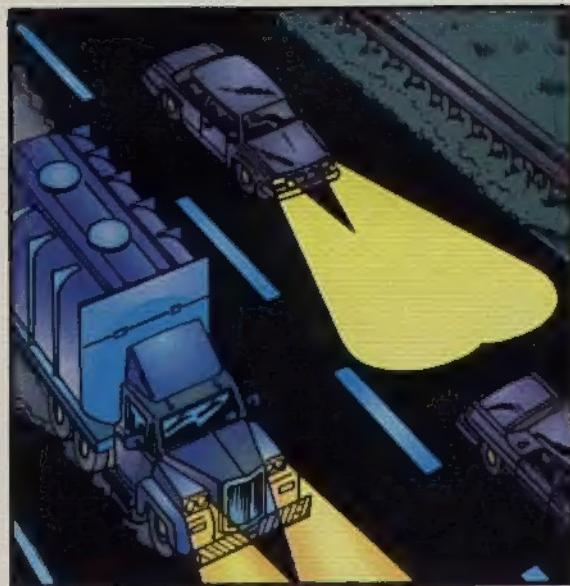
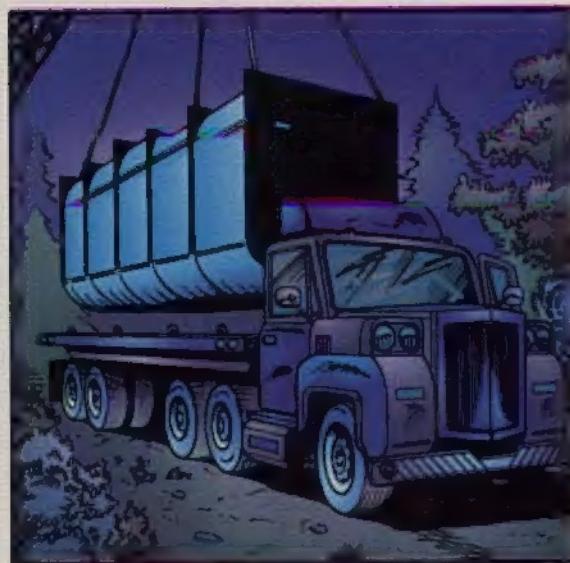


GONNA





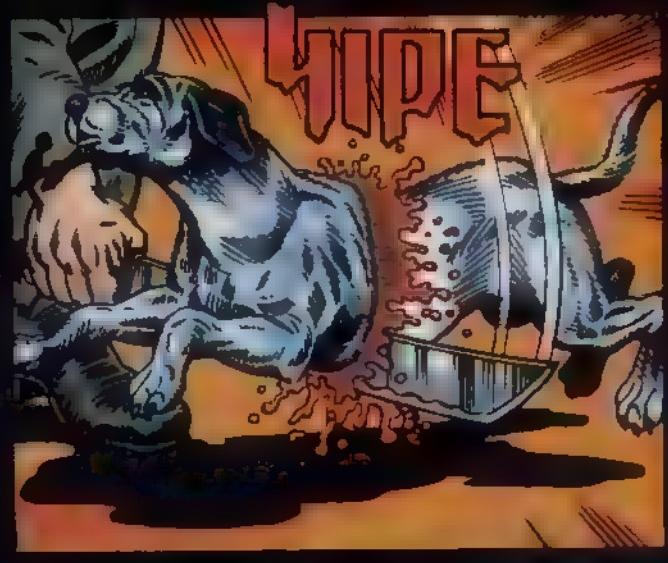




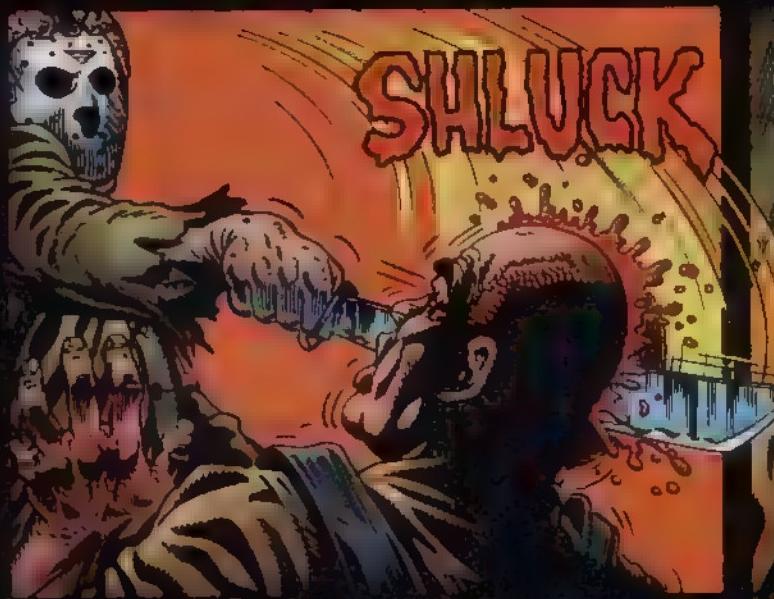
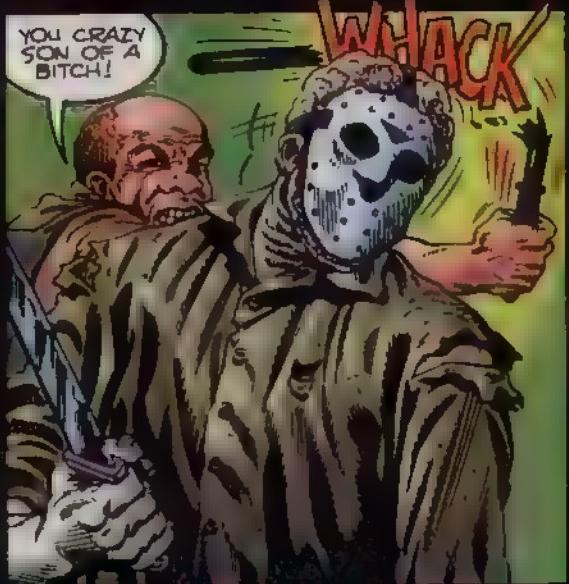


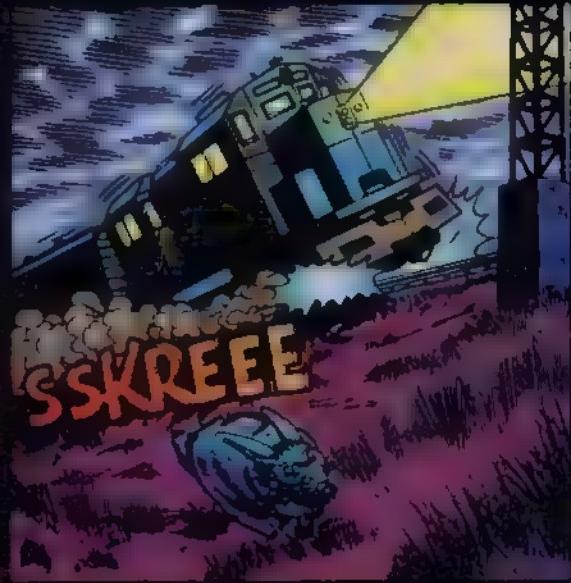


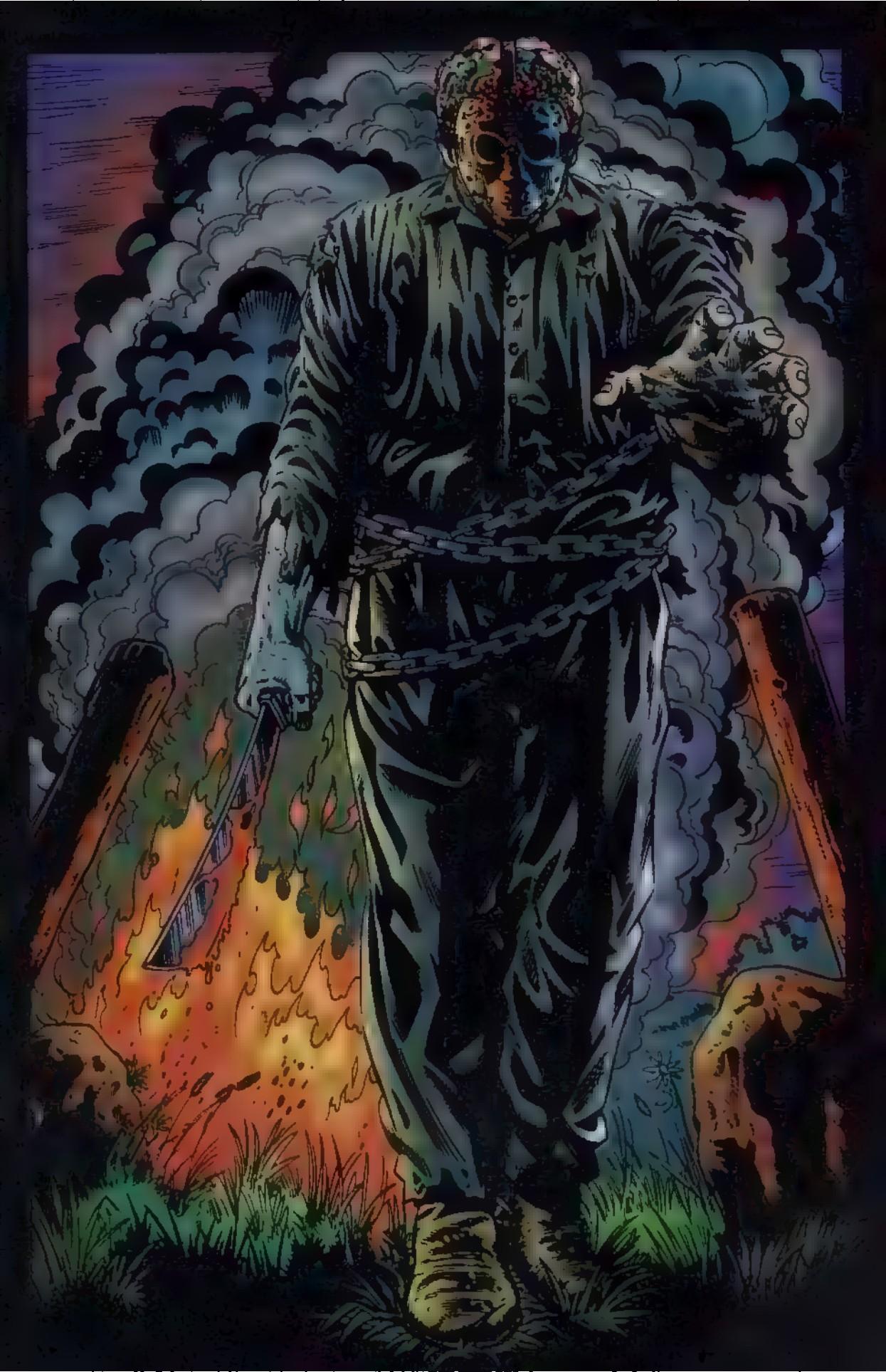


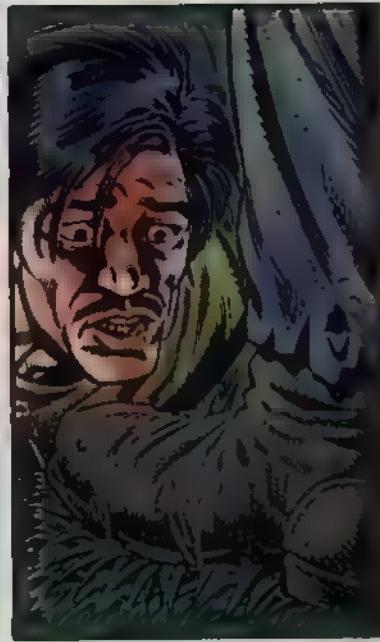
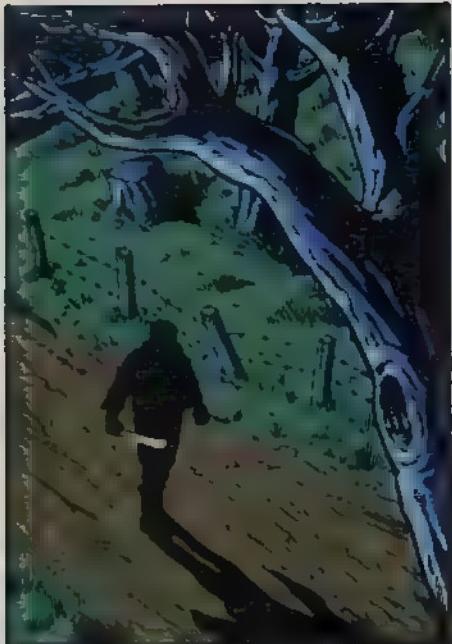












HELP ME!
PLEASE, MISTER,
YOU GOTTA
HELP ME!

THERE
ARE THESE
CRAZY PEOPLE
CHASING ME! I
DON'T DO NOTHING!
I JUST STOPPED
FOR SOME BAR-B-QUE,
THAT'S ALL--AND NOW
THEY'RE TRYING TO--TO--

FOR THE LOVE
OF GOD, YOU'VE
GOTTA HELP
ME

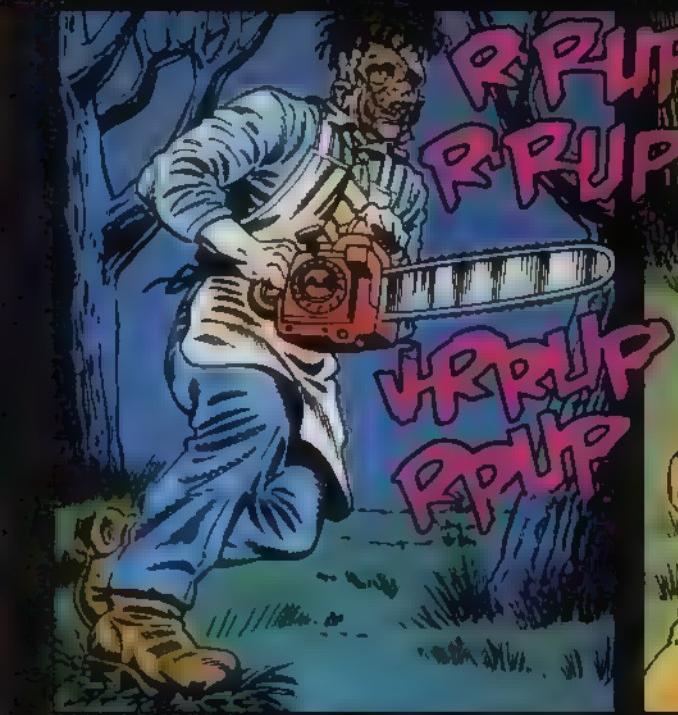
OH, SHIT...

OOEEEE!
DOG
WILL
HUNT!

LEATHERFACE,
YOU BITCH!
WHERE THE
HELL ARE YOU,
BOY?

I SAID WE
GOT OURSELVES
SOME MORE
MEAT ON THE
HOOF!

LOOKY
WHAT GOT HERE,
BUBBA! ANOTHER
INGREDIENT!

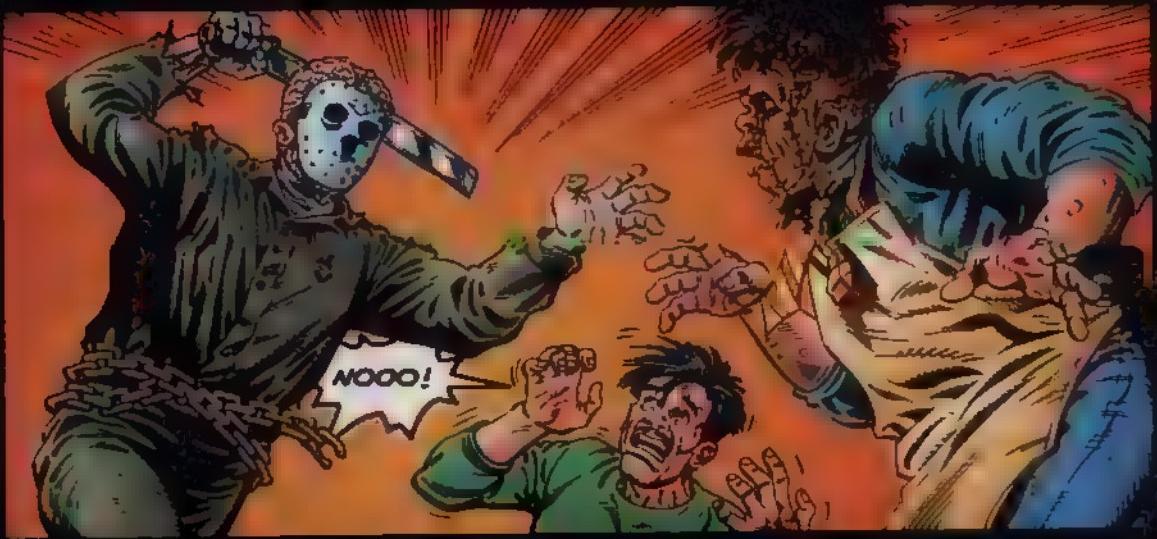


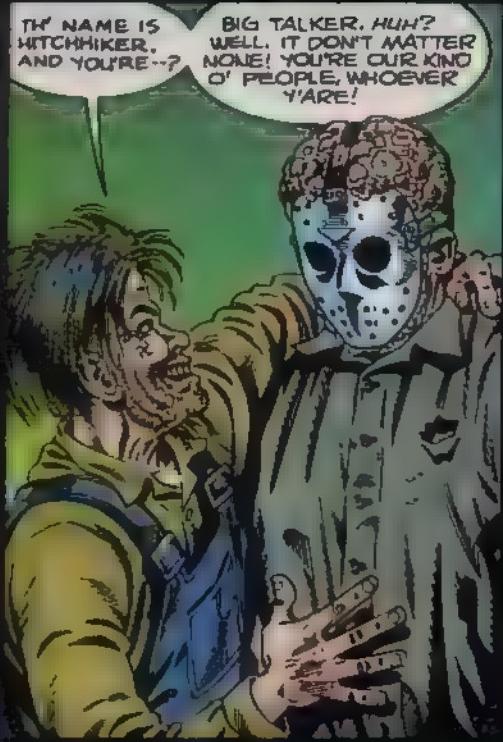
RIP RIP RIP

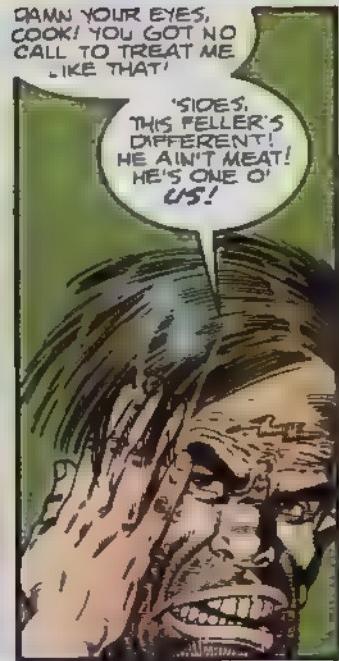
GIT 'IM,
LEATHERFACE!
GIT THAT
SUMBITCH!

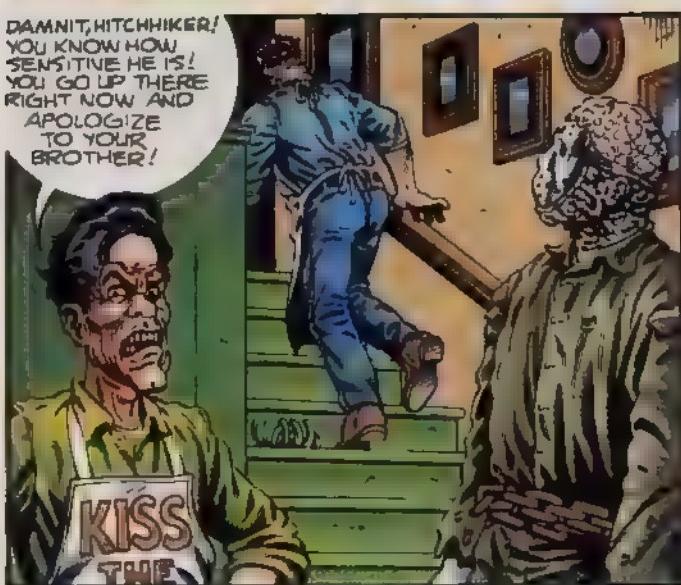
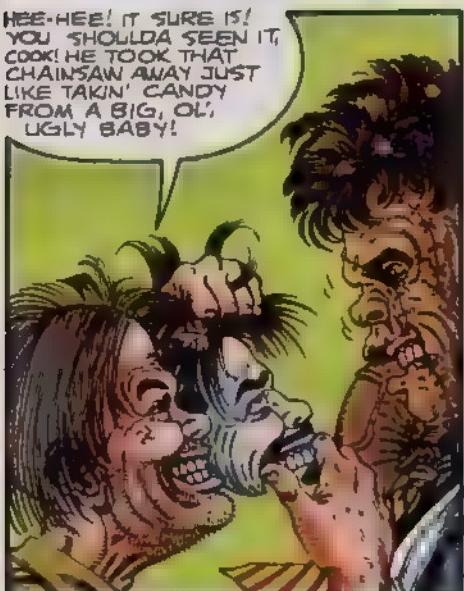
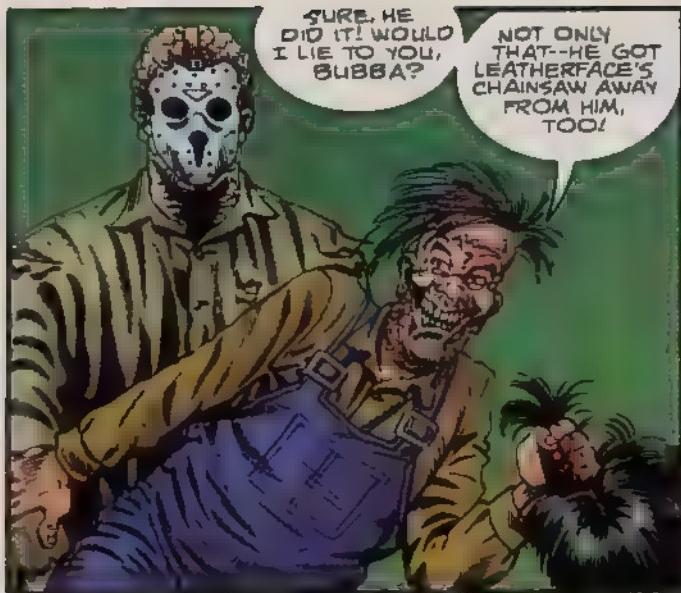


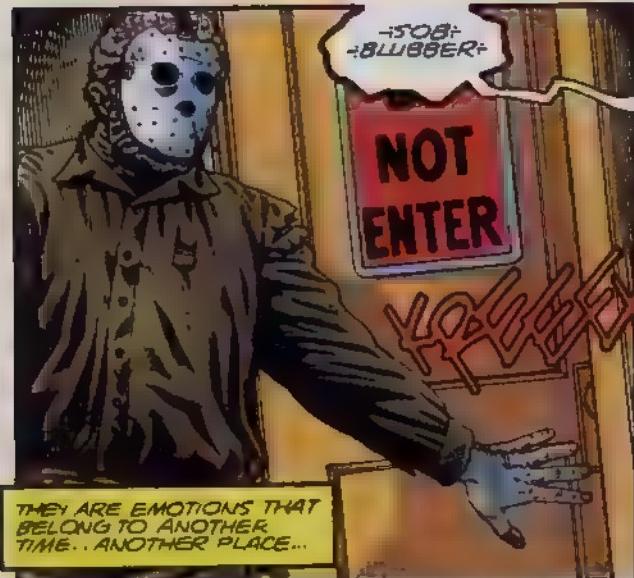
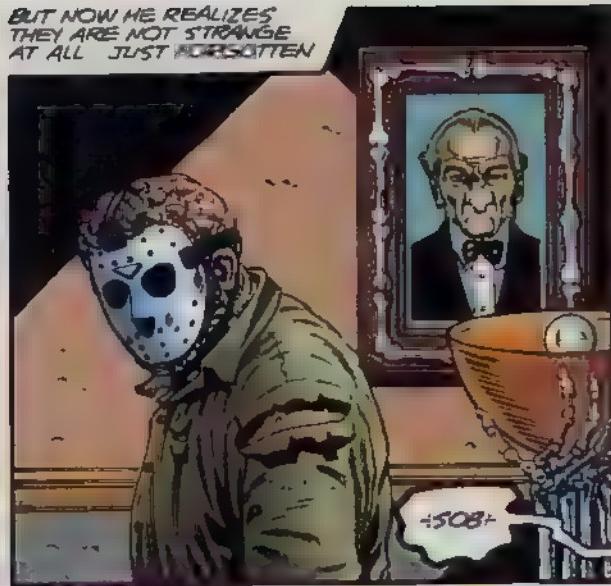
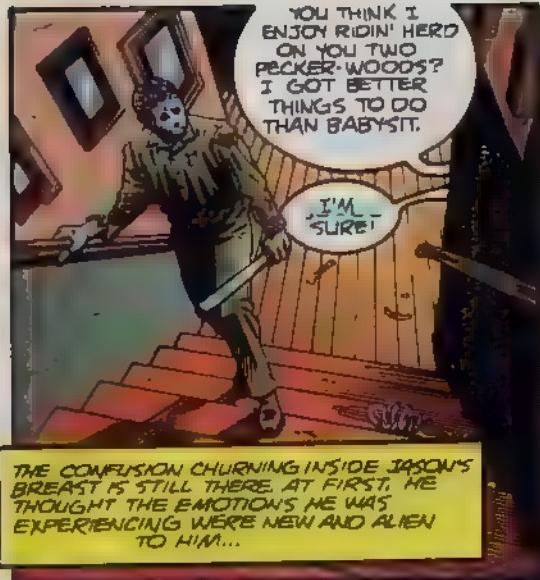
SHIT-
FIRE! HE
GOT THE
SAW!

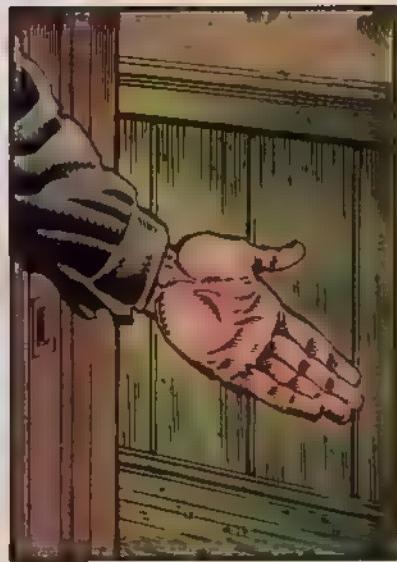














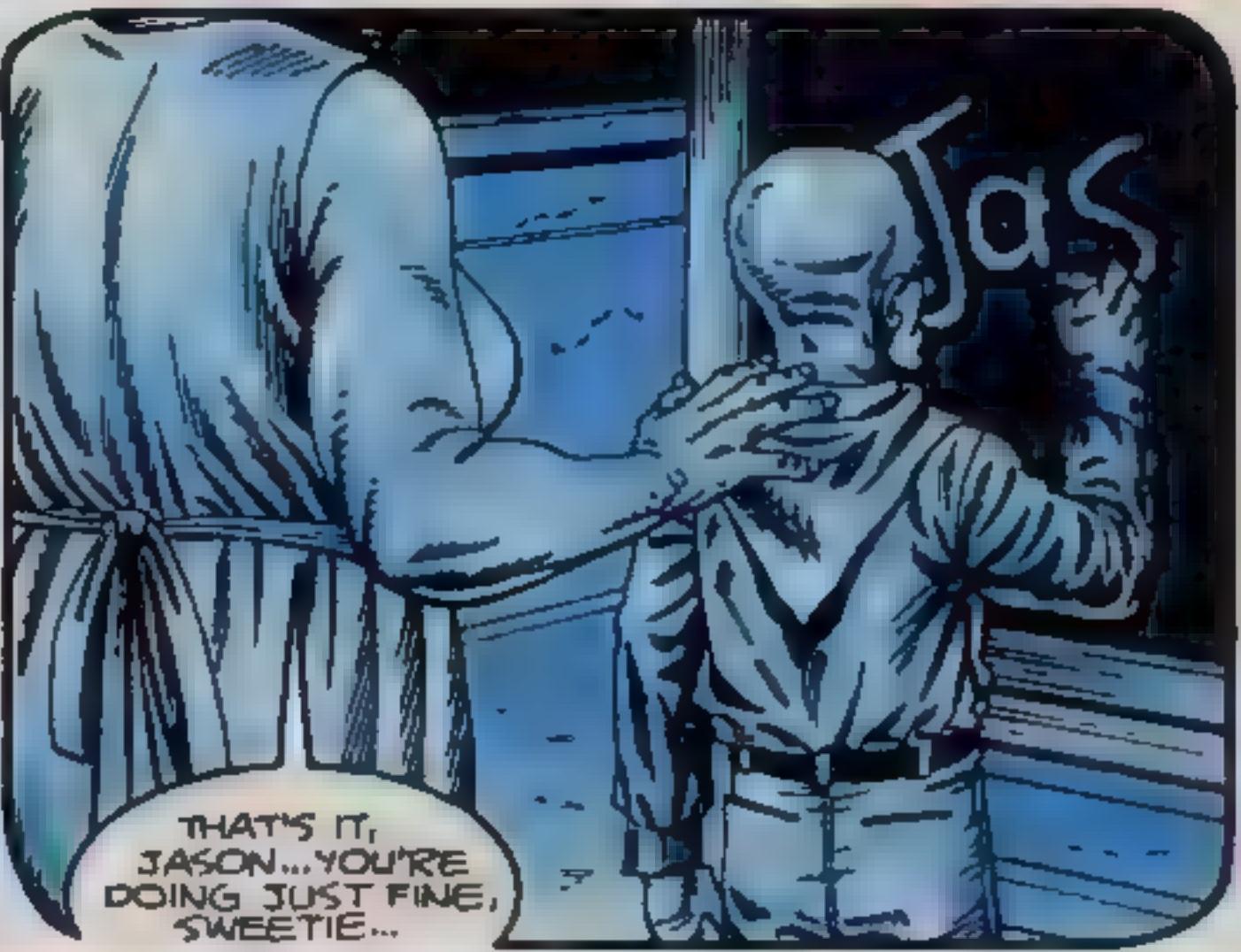


AND THIS HERE'S
GRAN'PA! BACK WHEN
HE US'TA WORK AT THE
SLAUGHTER-HOUSE, HE
WAS THE MIGHTIEST
BUTCHER THEY
EVER HAD!

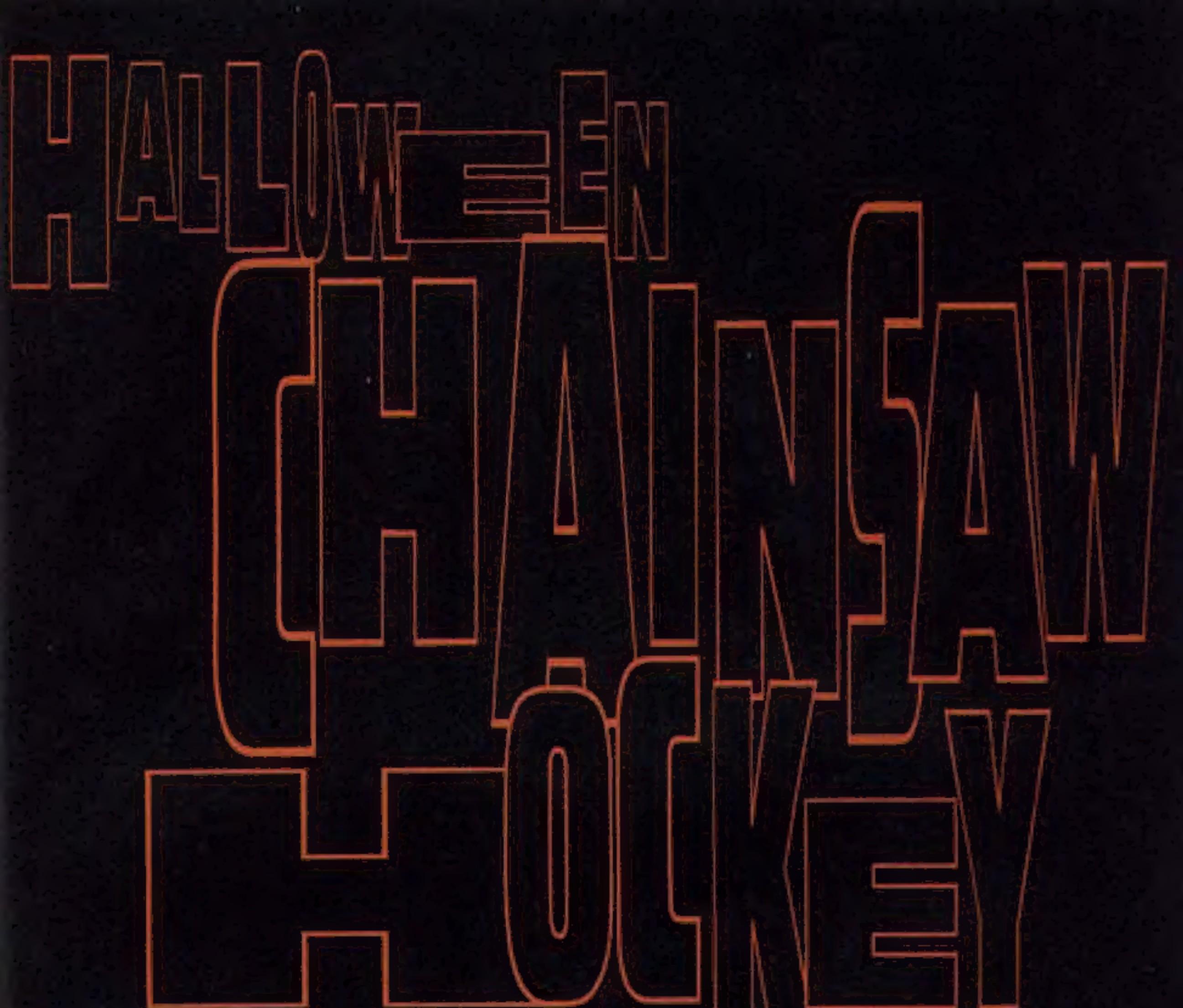
HE COULD KILL
A FULL-GROWN
STEER WITH JUST
ONE BLOW OF THE
HAMMER! YES, SIR!
THERE WEREN'T
NO ONE BETTER'N
GRAN'PA!



WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
SON? WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?



TO BE CONTINUED!



This is about Big Masked Guys Who Kill People in Movies, mainly Jason and Leatherface, but also their *Halloween* pal, Michael.

Why masks? To hide their faces, yes, but not to hide their identities (except maybe at first in Michael's case--ask Loomis).

For our Main Masked Three, masks do what the policeman's eye-hiding sunglasses did in *Psycho*. Their masks are mainly a power thing. They hide male emotions from their victims, in Michael's case actual tears (*Halloween 5*). But Leatherface also wears a mask because (I guess) he needs a Face to give himself an identity (in the first *Chainsaw*, he changes clothes and masks for supper, serving dinner wearing a woman's face and wig--his mother's?). And Jason's face-hiding started (I imagine) in his childhood when he was probably made to feel ashamed of his Quasimodoesque appearance (I'm using the early versions of Jason's childhood image now, not the non-Quasimodoesque image from *Jason Takes*

Manhattan). Before the hockey mask, he hid his face by actually wearing a sack over his head, remember?

So, let's have a freshly sewn mask of human flesh for Leatherface, please, one healthy hockey hero's mask for Jason, and a dead white, trick-or-treat *Halloween* mask for Michael. Thanks. (Freddy? He has a nightmare of a sweater, a glove, hat, and a movie with Jason in the works, but no mask. Psycho Norman didn't have a mask, either, just a dress and wig.)

Speaking of serial killers, the real life serial killer/psycho killer movie connection goes way down deep. I've heard that *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *Deranged*, *Psycho*, and other films were inspired by a real serial killer, Ed Gien.

Leatherface, like Ed, is obviously an extremely dangerous (and generally noisy, unlike the superbly sneaky Michael) critter, but evil? As in, does he think he is? I don't know how Ed felt, but I doubt Leatherface is burdened by a guilty conscience. He's just doin' things of which his

BY
C DEAN ANDERSSON

kinfolk approve, workin' hard to make 'em proud of him. And that's scary. Kind of like trying to reason with a gang member onto whose turf you've mistakenly stumbled, because Leatherface's gang is his family, and his turf is his home.

It's been said that the most interesting (and usually scariest) villains in fiction (and real life) never see themselves as villains, and I think whoever said that first (no, I don't know who) was right, and Leatherface is certainly one of 'em, and a simple one at that. But after a simplistic start, Jason became increasingly complex.

At first, Jason was a villain for whom (like the Frankenstein monster) I could have sympathy, because at first he was such a victim himself, some kind of birth defect victim (evidently, again assuming the earlier image) for starters, then the victim of negligent teenaged camp councilors who let him drown in Crystal Lake because they were off making love instead of doing their life guarding job (life guarding... him... *Jason vs. Baywatch?*). Then, after his mom got herself killed avenging his death, Jason was such a good boy that he came back from the dead (or from his exile in the woods, depending upon what you believe — he could have come back to life and started living in that shed in the second Friday after his mother's death, yes?) to avenge mom like she'd been avenging him.

It was harder to feel sympathy for Jason when he became an unkillable death machine (*Jason vs. The Terminator?*) and began to decay. But any remaining sympathy vanished with *Jason Goes to Hell* when he started jumping from body to body. It made me begin to wonder if maybe he'd possessed (if he was dead) or telepathically controlled (if he was alive in the woods) his mom in the first place. Maybe that's why she started killing teenagers at Camp Crystal Lake. She talked to herself as if he were talking to her, remember? So, maybe he was always doing the killing. Could he have always been evil? If so, why?

Before *Jason Goes to Hell*, there were various

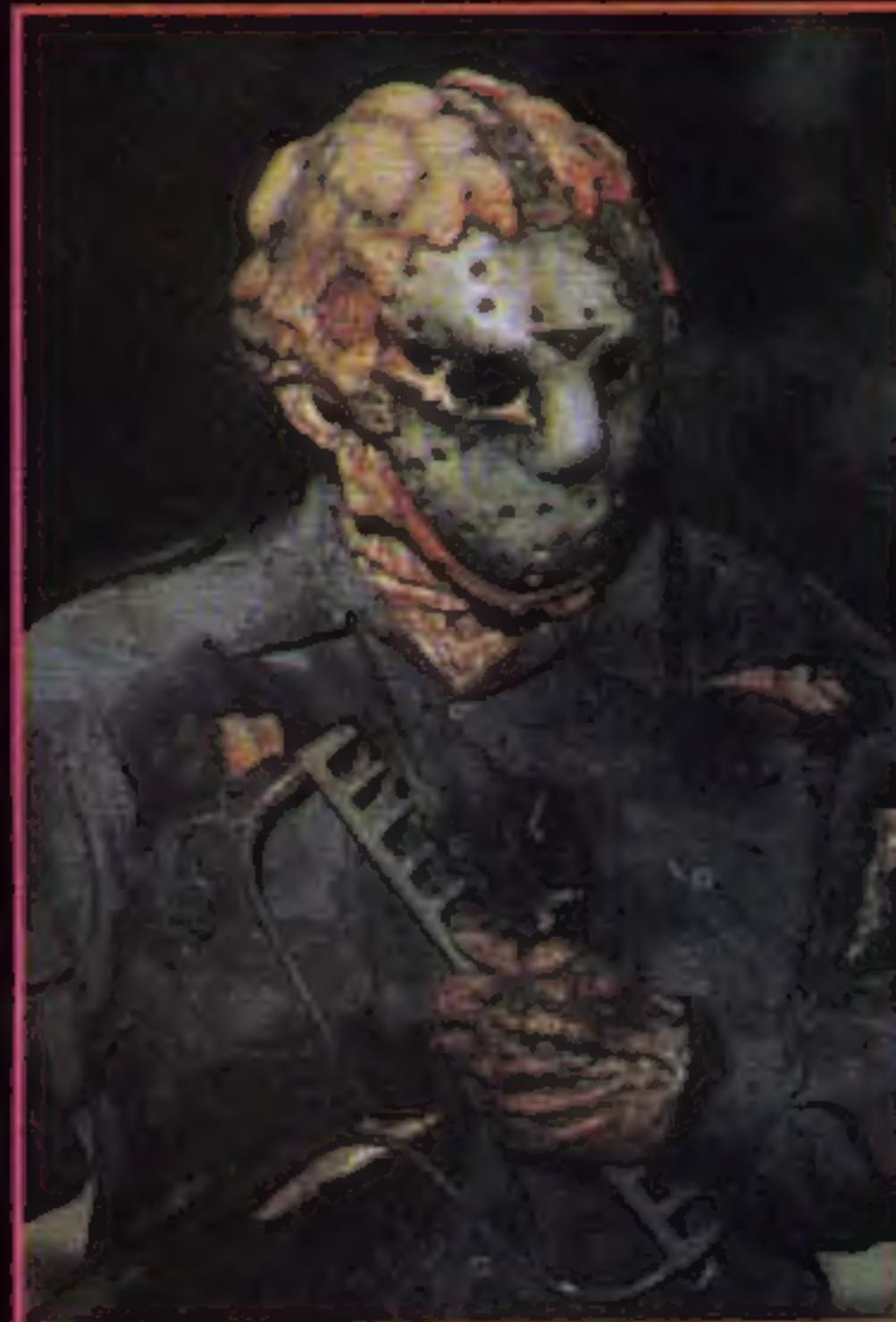
possibilities. A birth defect due to a random genetic mutation. A drug taken while he was in the womb. A mutation caused by his dad being exposed to radiation tests during World War II. But after *JGTH*, there was only one answer that would do. What happened to Jason was Something Supernatural! Because...

Remember that dust-covered book with the ugly face on it in Jason's family's old house in *Jason Goes to Hell*? That was one of those Raimi-brand Necronomicon grimoires if ever I saw one, and I have, as have you, in the Evil Dead films. So! Is Jason one of the Evil Dead? Is that why nothing kills him? And where's Ash when you need him?

Or maybe there's even more to it than that. What about that white light coming down from above at the end of *Jason Goes to Hell*? It could have been from a UFO, right? Maybe Jason's folks messed with eldritch-arcane-cosmic-Love-craftian-horror-Necronomiconesque Olde New England Evil powers and it attracted alien Shadow beings from the outer Rim (*Jason vs. Babylon 5?*), and the aliens abducted Jason and did things to him (*Jason vs. Aliens vs. Predator?*), until at the end of his last film, when he was defeated the aliens rejected him, consigning him to be dragged under by The Mole People or something (including Freddy)? Yes, I am a bit perplexed. It shows, huh?

And while we're on the subject of my confusion, how did Jason get from being a normal looking but seemingly dead young boy-thing in a New York City sewer at the end of the 8th Friday, *Jason Takes Manhattan*, back to being a full-grown man-thing (and back at Crystal Lake) chasing the undercover agent at the start of the 9th Friday, *Jason Goes to Hell*? Was there a *Friday the 13th Eight and One-Half* that I missed or something? Maybe they should do a comic book about that missing chunk of time. Yes?

But back at this comic book article, let's do some trivia and start with, "Who first played Leatherface?" Gunnar Hansen. "What's the nearest town to the Leatherface farm in the first *Chainsaw*?" Newt. Yes, really.



"Who first played Jason?" Ari Lehman. "How many people did Jason kill in the first *Friday the 13th* movie?" Yes, it's a trick question. Altogether now, the answer is (if he wasn't possessing or controlling his mom), ZERO! "What year was Jason said to have originally died?" '57. "What year was Jason born?" '46. "When's Jason's birthday?" Right, Friday the 13th! "But what month?" It rhymes with Moon (a full one of which is the first thing seen in the first *Friday the 13th*). June. "Who played Jason more than once and in which films?" Kane Hodder in *Fridays VII, VIII, and IX* (and check out Hodder's awesome metal werewolf in *Project: Metal Beast* if you haven't already).

"What's the connection between Jason's hockey mask and *Halloween*?" In the third *Friday* film (in which Jason first gets his hockey mask), the practical joker guy (Shelly) from whom Jason later gets the hockey mask does an homage to Michael by sneaking up on his friends with a Michael-esque knife and mask.

Let's take a time-out from trivia. I've got to ask you something. How come the tune Harry Crosby's character plays on the guitar in the first *Friday* is also a tune in the soundtrack of the famous Kirk Douglas movie, *The Vikings*? It's also a popular Swedish traditional song. Since Harry Manfredini did the score for most of the *Friday* films including the wonderfully Bernard Herrmannesque score for the first one, and Mario Nascimbene wrote *The Vikings'* score, was Manfredini cleverly doing some homage to Nascimbene who had made use of a traditional Swedish tune? (And I'm not even going to mention the connection between *The Vikings* and the first two Michael Myers films. You figure it out!)

Trivia again. "What's the connection between Jason and the *Forrest Gump Goes to the Moon* movie?" Damn, but you're good! Yes, Kevin Bacon, who was in *Apollo 13* (with Tom Hanks who played Gump, if you've been on the Moon), was also in the first *Friday the 13th*. He's the one who got the Tom Savini FX arrow-from-beneath-the-cot-pushed-out-the-front-of-his-neck (a scene that was repeated — except with a blade

instead of an arrow and with a woman instead of a man lying in a hammock instead of on a cot — in the third *Friday* film, lending credence to the possibility that since it was Jason doing the killing in the third film, it may indeed have been that Jason was possessing or controlling his mother when she did the arrow-from-beneath thing in the first film, unless of course after she died she possessed Jason and it's been her all along).

By the way, would you pay to see (I'm just curious here) *Leatherface vs. Forrest Gump*?

But tell the truth, now, did you ever, even for a moment, identify with (while watching one of their films) one or more of our Big Three masked cinematic killers or any similar film characters, even big-movie respectable ones like Hannibal Lecter or less realistic ones like Dracula or Godzilla?

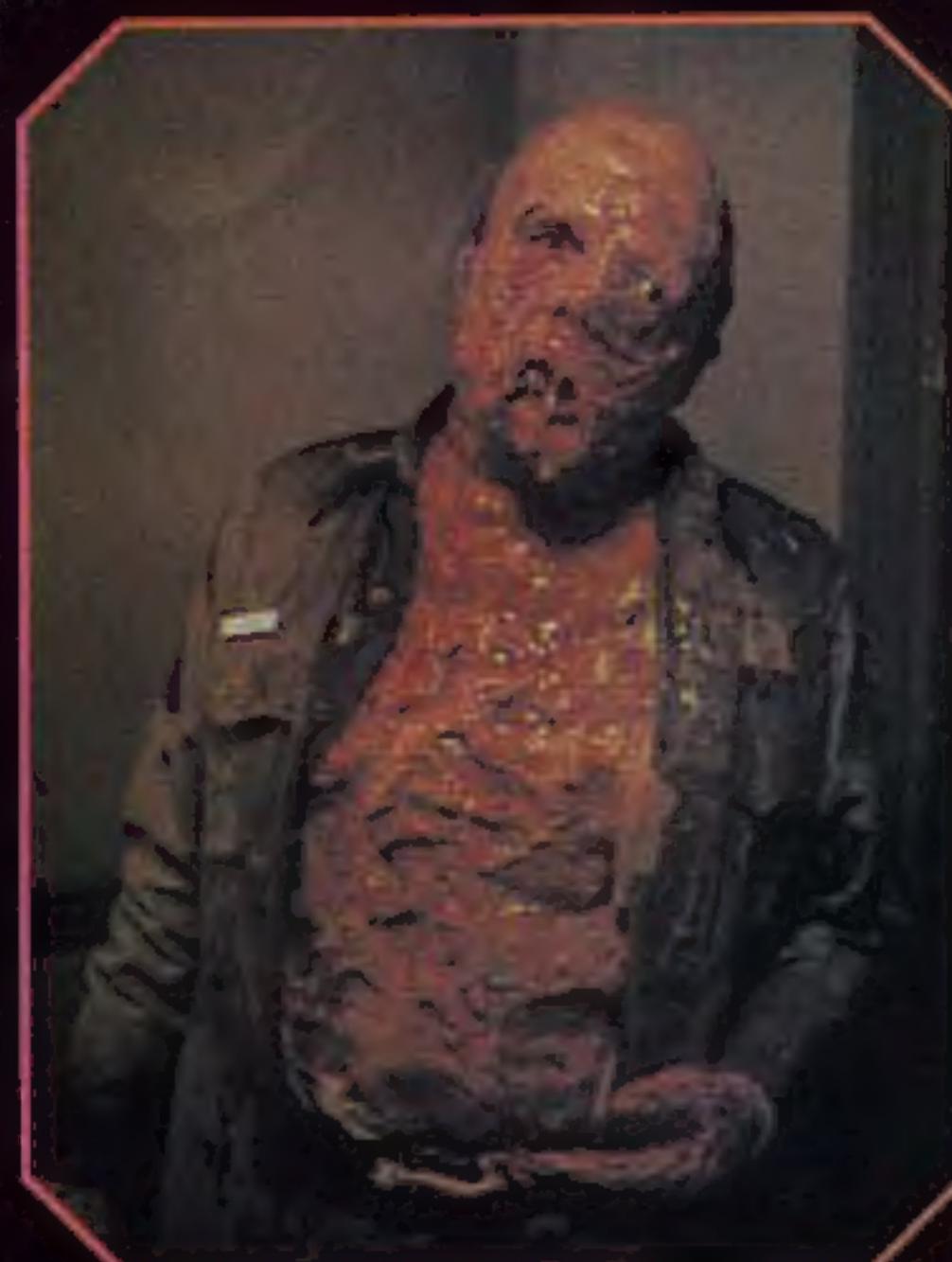
So, yes? You have identified with them sometime? And you enjoyed the fantasy (let me repeat, the fantasy, please) of wielding the power of terror and death?

Might it be that one of the things so-called slasher films have the potential to do for us is to help us or make us see what's most ugly/dangerous/destructive about ourselves? Some part of us we want/need to keep hidden (even from ourselves) behind some kind of mask we may not even know we're wearing? So that if we maybe knew and watched for watered down (hopefully very watered down) manifest-

ations of that truth about ourselves in our everyday lives, we might end up being more the kind of person we thought we were but weren't but might still want to be and have a chance yet to become? That's not too profound, is it? Just confusing as hell? Okay, then, how about this?

How come beneath our mask we're all too likely to be more in love with violence and death than with life? How come we Jason/Leatherface/Michael watchers are entertained by viewing personalized deaths in stalk'n'kill horrors or mass deaths in action hero epics, but we judge relationship movies in which people laugh'n'cry but don't necessarily die silly and boring?

How come if a book or movie or comic leaves you feeling a squishy or silly grin kind of good



inside it's almost never considered as important or cutting-edge or "realistic" as one that leaves you frustrated and depressed (like watching too much TV news)? And speaking of the news, how come in the news biz the saying if it bleeds, it leads (I don't know who said it first) is nearly always true? And in other kinds of show biz, too?

No, I don't know how come any of the above. But I do wonder about it, especially after I read a book called "The Demon Lover". Robin Morgan wrote it, but it's not about supernatural demon lovers. It's more frightening than that. It's about real life stalking and killing, terrorism, war, and the other love-death, sex-death things that dominate human society (in the middle of which Jason and Leatherface fit so very comfortably). Better not read it, though. You might start wondering how come, too, and I don't know if you could handle it. Well, could you? Consider yourself dared. But in the meantime, did I hear someone ask what were my favorite horror films?

I'll list a few less recent ones I've discovered that you might enjoy if you already haven't. At the top of this list is the famous Barbara Steele vampire film, *Black Sabbath*. Hammer's elegant *Horror of Dracula* is another favorite, as are *Dracula's Daughter*, *Nosferatu*, *Freaks*, *I Walked With a Zombie*, *Dead of Night*, *A Face in the Fog*, *Curse of the Demon*, *The Haunting*, *Portrait of Jenny*, and the great Swedish version of *Frankenstein*.

But what about the films of the Three Big Guys Who Wear Masks? Leatherface's first film remains my favorite *Chainsaw*. But my favorite Jason film is the seventh one where he acquires real EC Comics good looks and battles the telekinetic young woman (*Jason vs. Carrie?*). And my favorite Michael films are all of them, yes, even number three (talk about interesting masks).

There's a new Michael film coming out soon, I've heard. I hope they deal with the mystery guy in the silver-tipped boots from *Halloween 5*. I hope they explain how come both he and Michael had Thorn Rune (Thurisaz) tattoos on their wrists. And in the Jason and Freddy film, will Jason get to wear Freddy's hat and Freddy Jason's hockey mask? And someone said there's a new *Chainsaw* out, described as the "real" sequel to the first *Chainsaw*? What does that mean? I haven't seen it. But I want to. How come. I don't know. He's on third. And good night.



C. Dean Andersson writes short stories and horror novels with cuddly titles such as "Small Brown Bags of Blood," *TORTURE TOMB*, *RAW PAIN MAX*, and *BURIED SCREAMS*. His tenth novel, *FIEND*, published last year, was set at a comic book convention. In the works are a couple of *MORTAL KOMBAT* novels and *I AM FRANKENSTEIN*, the second in his "I AM..." series that began with *I AM DRACULA* and will continue with *I AM THE MUMMY*. Under the pen name of Asa Drake he wrote *WARRIOR WITCH OF HEL* and two sequels featuring Bloodsong, a dead-alive warrior woman who claims she could take Jason without breaking a sweat.

NEXT ISSUE:

